

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SAJ-01 COME-00 STR-04 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 FRB-03 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /091 W

----- 128883

R 180630Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4961

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, EEC, COMECON, LU

SUBJECT: CEMA-EEC CONTACTS

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 1540; (B) MOSCOW 2245

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1. MR. GERHARD WEISS, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EAST GERMAN

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, CAME TO LUXEMBOURG ON FEBRUARY 16 IN HIS ROLE AS PRESIDENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COMECON. THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP WAS TO MEET WITH GASTON THORN IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND TODISCUSS FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EEC AND COMECON. MR. WEISS WAS ACCOMPANIED BY EAST GERMAN AMBASSADOR HEINZ HOFFMAN, WHO IS RESIDENT IN BRUSSELS.

2. THE WEISS-THORN MEETING ITSELF WAS BRIEF AND DISCUSSIONS WERE LIMITED. IN ESSENCE, WEISS DELIVERED A LETTER CONTAINING A PROPOSAL FOR AN ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL/ TECHNICAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN "COMECON AND ITS MEMBER STATES AND THE EEC AND ITS MEMBER STATES." A DRAFT UMBRELLA AGREEMENT WAS ALSO SUBMITTED. THORN ACCEPTED THE COMMUNICATION AND DESCRIBED THE PROPOSAL AS GENUINE POLITICAL PROGRESS. THE COMECON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS PROPOSED THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS AGREEMENT TAKE PLACE IN MOSCOW OR BRUSSELS.

3. NO DETAILS WERE MADE AVAILABLE. ACCORDING TO A GOL SOURCE, COMECON CONSIDERS THE DOCUMENTS SECRET. THE SAME SOURCE EXPEDTS THAT EXPECTS THAT PRESIDENT THORN WILL PLACE THIS TOPIC ON THE AGENDA FOR THE MARCH 1-2 EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING. SIR CHRISTOPHER SOAMES, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EC COMMISSION, ALSO TOOK PART IN THE DISCUSSIONS.

4. THE VISIT WAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE PLAY IN THE PRESS AND ON LOCAL TELEVISION NEWS. THE GOL SPOKESMAN COMMENTED THAT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF "WINDOW DRESSING" SEEMED NECESSARY. PHILLIPS

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Message Attributes

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